



Variety's **My Bike**® Program, **My Stroller**® Program, & **My Voice**® Program:

All equipment is provided at **NO COST** to families that meet the program's eligibility requirements.

Variety's **My Bike** Program provides an adaptive bike (including a stationary stand and prescribed accessories) to eligible children with disabilities, so they can experience the joy, freedom, and belonging that comes from riding a bike alongside friends and family.

*"A year ago, my healthy five-year-old's life (now 6) changed drastically, and before, Kyree was very active & sports-oriented child. **In the past year, he had to learn everything all over.** Due to his current physical impairment, we must look for other ways to include him in physical activities. This adaptive bike will give the power to ride just like his siblings. **It will definitely improve his self-confidence because it's something else he can do on his own.**" -Kara, mom of Kyree (right)*



Variety's **My Stroller** Program currently provides a Convaid EZ Rider adaptive stroller to eligible kids for "on-the-go" mobility or general safety / inclusion in the community. With an adaptive stroller, kids are no longer isolated, and it has an immediate impact on their lives. For others, a child might need an adaptive stroller to stay safe and secure while out in the community.

*"Jayla's condition causes her to fall a lot, and her body weakens after just a little bit of activity, even a walk. We haven't been able to go places that require walking because she needs to be carried and that is no easy feat. **This stroller opens up so many things for her** – trips to the mall, walks through Target, family walks in the park, and even walks around our neighborhood, which we had to stop when her disability got worse." -Stephanie, mom of Jayla (left)*



Variety's **My Voice** Program provides a communication device (i.e. a restricted iPad with a prescribed communication app) to eligible children with a communication disorder to give them a voice and enable them to express their thoughts, feelings, wants, and needs 24/7.

*"Carleigh is already doing so well with her communication device, and she only had it one day. She is navigating through it, and she was so excited to show mom at the end of the day! Mom asked her what she wanted to eat, and she told her, 'hamburger' with her device! **This communication device is going to change Carleigh's life and give her a voice now.** She is going to do wonders with it!" -Julie, SLP of Carleigh (right)*



What is Variety the Children's Charity?

- ❖ With a mission to empower children with disabilities to live life to the fullest, Variety the Children's Charity provides life-changing mobility and communication equipment to ensure our most vulnerable kids are no longer left out, behind, or excluded. Simply, we're helping kids, be kids.
- ❖ Variety began in Pittsburgh in 1927 to help one child named Catherine, and today, we're focused on the unmet mobility and communication needs of kids with disabilities.
- ❖ After listening to parents, Variety's **My Bike®** Program kicked off on November 5, 2012, and the success of **My Bike** led to the creation of Variety's **My Stroller®** and **My Voice®** Programs, which both kicked off on Nov. 14, 2014. Our success also led to expanding from an original 10-counties in Southwestern Pennsylvania to 71-counties in Pa. and northern West Virginia.
- ❖ In total, more than **6,300** adaptive bikes, adaptive strollers, and communication devices have been presented since November 2012 (worth more than **\$9.5 million** in equipment).

Who is eligible for Variety's equipment programs?

- Variety's adaptive equipment programs serve children and youth who have a documented mental, physical, or sensory disability; reside in Variety's service area; are 3 through 21 years of age; meet the income guidelines; as well as the other eligibility requirements outlined in the application.
- An applicant's household income must meet the current income guidelines, including: **2** household members (below \$98,600); **3** household members (below \$124,300); **4** household members (below \$150,000); **5** household members (below \$175,700); **6** household members (below \$201,400); **7** household members (below \$227,100); **8** household members (below \$252,800); **9** household members (below \$278,500).

Variety recognizes that families who have a child with disabilities typically experience greater expenses due to medical costs, therapy appointments, equipment, medications, and a variety of other needs or circumstances.

All equipment is provided at NO COST to families that meet the program's guidelines.

- Service Area includes **59 counties in Pennsylvania**: Adams, Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Bedford, Blair, Bradford, Butler, Cambria, Cameron, Carbon, Centre, Clarion, Clearfield, Clinton, Columbia, Crawford, Cumberland, Dauphin, Elk, Erie, Fayette, Forest, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Huntingdon, Indiana, Jefferson, Juniata, Lackawanna, Lawrence, Lehigh, Luzerne, Lycoming, McKean, Mercer, Mifflin, Monroe, Montour, Northampton, Northumberland, Perry, Pike, Potter, Schuylkill, Somerset, Snyder, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Union, Venango, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Westmoreland, Wyoming, and York.; and **12 counties in northern West Virginia**: Barbour, Brooke, Doddridge, Hancock, Harrison, Marion, Marshall, Monongalia, Ohio, Preston, Taylor, and Wetzel.

How does someone apply to Variety's equipment programs?

- Complete an application online at www.varietypittsburgh.org/applynow, or contact Variety to have one mailed to you or if you have questions (call 724-933-0460 / email info@varietypittsburgh.org).
- **As we transition to a new bike model, My Bike is currently paused and cannot accept new applications.**
- Eligible families can apply all year long for one or both pieces of equipment if the child can benefit – **you do not need to choose just one.**

How much does it cost to sponsor equipment & how can someone donate?

- The cost to sponsor one adaptive stroller is \$1,800 and one communication device is \$1,200. Donations can be given online (www.varietypittsburgh.org/donate), or by mailing a check (address below) made payable to Variety. Any donation can be designated to a specific county or program.

*Our **My Voice®** Program is financed {in part} by a grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community and Economic Development as well as generously funded by community donations.*

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIDS...



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